

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 141530Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1266

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0013

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO OUST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL
SECRETARY FOR TUSCANY

1. DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES OF LIVORNO, LUCCA, MASSA CARRARA, PISA AND SIENA HAVE MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE RESIGNATION OF THE FANFANI REGIONAL SECRETARY IVO BUTINI. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE CHARGED THAT BUTINI IS DICTATORIAL, AUTOCRATIC AND A LEADER WHO HAS PRESIDED OVER CONTINUED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LOSSES OF STRENGTH IN TUSCANY. THERE IS ALSO THE OVERTONE THAT NEW, YOUNGER AND MORE VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP IN TUSCANY IS REQUIRED NOW TO REINVIGORATE AND STRENGTHEN THE PARTY IN TUSCANY. SO FAR, THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES OF THE OTHER 4 PROVINCES IN TUSCANY HAVE TAKEN NO PUBLIC STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

2. AT A REGIONAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AND OTHER MATTERS, BUTINI AVOIDED RESIGNING AND WAS ABLE TO PREVENT THE ISSUE FROM COMING TO A HEAD. MANY BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE PARTY APPARATUS IN TUSCANY THINK IT IS UNWISE TO MAKE A CHANGE PRIOR TO THE DC NATIONAL CONGRESS. HOWEVER, OPPONENTS OF BUTINI'S LEADERSHIP STATE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BATTLE FOR HIS REMOVAL.

3. BUTINI MAY BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS POSITION AT LEAST UNTIL DC NATIONAL CONGRESS MARCH 4-8. ANOTHER REAL TEST WILL
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COME APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CONGRESS WHEN TUSCAN

PARTY APPARATUS WILL MEET TO RECONFIRM BUTIN'S POSITION OR
ELECT NEW REGIONAL SECRETARY. GORDON

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NNN

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